

For Russell, Richard

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MAY 20 1966 Turn On A Light!

Senator Richard B. Russell (D., Ga.) has told the Senate it is sheer poppycock to contend that the Central Intelligence Agency makes or takes over foreign policy. At the same time the Senator rejected a proposal that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee share in supervising the activities of the C.I.A. Said Mr. Russell:

There is no justification whatever for any other committee to muscle in on the jurisdiction of the Armed Services Committee as far as the C. I. A. is concerned.

The C.I.A. is a spy network, the espionage service of the United States Government, a potent and influential force which misinformed President Kennedy about Cuba and led to the disaster known as the Bay of Pigs. It is responsible for misinforming President Johnson about what it alleged was Communist intervention in the Dominican Republic. That led to unilateral intervention by the United States. We'll never live it down.

Clearly some one besides Mr. Russell and his committee should know what the C.I.A. is doing. The C.I.A. represents the United States and should be responsible to the people of the United States — the Congress. No one outside it knows what the C.I.A. is about; its operations are clandestine and secret. Any spy network's operations must be. But the Congress should be fully aware of what the C. I. A. is up to and why. It should not be reduced to giving assent ex post facto to any harebrained stunt or fascist coup this agency undertakes. The long-range intentions of the United States are under worldwide suspicion because of the supersecret way in which the C. I. A. works its blunders. An elite S. S. may be just what the dictator orders in a totalitarian country. It's not for land of the free. Stand aside, Senator, and let's have a look!